

Strategic Plan for the Michigan State Waterways Commission

The Commission's Mission Statement:

The Michigan State Waterways Commission works to provide safe public access to the Great Lakes and inland waters of the State of Michigan. Working with partners, the Commission oversees the use of dedicated funds provided by boaters for the acquisition, construction and operation of the infrastructure needed to support boating.

The Commission's Vision Statement:

Through continuing efforts over the next 50 years, the Michigan State Waterways Commission and staff envision and will work toward a future where:

- Michigan is a national and international resource for boaters and others seeking water-related recreational opportunities.
- All Michigan residents and visitors have easy, convenient access to all the state's lakes, rivers and streams through high-quality public facilities.
- Michigan's Great Lakes' Harbors-of-Refuge network has been completed and is being operated and maintained to provide transient boaters with safe, high-quality public facilities using the latest, most appropriate designs and technology.
- All of these public boating facilities are adequately funded and are developed, maintained, and operated in a customer-oriented, ecologically responsible manner.
- Where appropriate, these public boating facilities are being operated through partnership with local communities, public agencies, conservation groups, friends groups, and concessionaires.
- Michigan's residents and public officials are aware of and appreciate the contribution of boater's funds to acquire, develop and maintain the State's public boating and public water access facilities.
- Access to waterways is supported because of the contribution that recreational boating makes to the local and state economy.
- The Commission's work underscores the value and benefit of citizen oversight, input, and guidance.

The Commission's Goals for the Next Five Years:

Goal 1: Upgrade and Maintain Existing Facilities

Through a careful process which begins with study and thorough inventory, the Commission will create a maintenance schedule and prioritize the upgrades of existing Harbor Facilities and Boating Access Sites. Specific benchmarks will include:

- By year-one complete the harbor electrical study.
- By year-two complete the Boating Access Sites infrastructure study.
- By year-three complete the harbor infrastructure study.
- By year-three develop a preventive maintenance schedule for Boating Access Sites.
- By year-five upgrade electrical infrastructure at 12 - 15 harbors (at the rate of 4-5 per year, with priority determined by the electrical study).
- By year-five upgrade a number of Boating Access Sites.

Goal 2: Create New Boat Access Site Facilities

The Commission will increase the number of Boating Access Sites in areas of limited access by 5 to 10 sites to better serve the needs of recreational boaters. The Commission will pro-actively create partnerships and garner local support in creating these sites. The Commission's work will depend on:

- The identification of high priority areas for public access,
- The establishment of a Boating Access Site Committee,
- The consistent use of survey methods to test for and gain local support,

Goal 3: Create Harbors of Refuge

The Commission will complete the Cedar River project and seek an alternate design/site for a harbor of refuge at Cross Village. The Commission will also complete a needs study for harbors of refuge in Lake Superior.

In all efforts, the Commission will work with the Army Corps of Engineers to identify navigational issues in site selection, and the Congressional delegation to seek federal funding to establish harbors.

Goal 4: Strengthen Internal Structure and Efficiency

A) The Commission will utilize "Standing Committees" to better manage the boater's needs in the State of Michigan. They will include:

- Facilities,
- Operation/Policy,
- Boating Access,
- Public/Governmental Relations,
- Finance.

B) The Standing Committees will work to bring outside constituency groups into the public process of the Commission.

C) The Commission will direct staff to utilize the Bureau's Field Structure to assist in statewide compliance of regulations, project agreements, and policies pertaining to all Waterways Commission sponsored facilities.

The Commission's Objectives to Reach the Goals:

Goal 1: Upgrade and Maintain Existing Facilities

Through a careful process which begins with study and thorough inventory, the Commission will create a maintenance schedule and prioritize the upgrades of existing harbor facilities and boating access sites. Specific benchmarks will include:

- By year one, complete the harbor electrical study.
- By year two, complete the Boating Access Sites infrastructure study.
- By year three, complete the harbor infrastructure study.
- By year three, develop a preventive maintenance schedule for boating Access sites.
- By year five, upgrade electrical infrastructure at 12-15 harbors (at the rate of 4-5 per year, with priority determined by the electrical study).
- By year five, upgrade a number of boating access sites.

Objectives or Steps to Reach the Goal:

Objectives in 2001

By June 30:	Complete electrical Study Preliminary outline of harbor study
By December 31:	Have BAS infrastructure organized for field implementation Have harbor infrastructure study to DMB Complete one harbor electrical upgrade.

Objectives in 2002

By June 30:	Have BAS infrastructure study completed
By December 31:	Have harbor infrastructure study completed. Have preventive maintenance schedule for BAS complete Complete three Harbor electrical upgrades

Objectives in 2003

By December 31:	Complete 5 Harbor electrical upgrades Upgrade ____ BAS sites, subject to study results
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Objectives in 2004

By December 31:	Complete 3 Harbor electrical upgrades Upgrade ____ BAS sites, subject to study
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Objectives in 2005

By December 31:	Complete 3 Harbor electrical upgrades Upgrade ____ BAS sites, subject to study
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Goal 2: Create New Boat Access Site Facilities

The Commission will increase the number of boating access sites in areas of limited access by 5 to 10 sites to better serve the needs of recreational

boaters. The Commission will pro-actively create partnerships and garner local support in creating these sites. The Commission's work will depend on:

- The identification of high priority areas for public access.
- The establishment of a Boating Access Site Committee.
- The consistent use of survey methods to test for and gain local support.

Objectives or Steps to Reach the Goal:

Objectives in 2001

- By June 30: Establish a Boating Access Site Subcommittee to promote and facilitate acquisition and development.
Identify all existing public water access sites.
Boating Access Site Subcommittee will identify where deficiencies exist.
Staff will bring current Boating Access Sites (BAS) criteria to Subcommittee for re-adoption or modifications and make recommendations to the Commission.
Subcommittee meets with Trust Fund Board members to educate and explain need for Trust Fund money in land acquisition.
- By December 31: Investigate all potential alternative funding sources
Subcommittee meets with local representatives to garner support for Commission's top two BAS locations. Staff provides needs justification for developments.
Staff/consultants begin engineering of two BAS.

Objectives in 2002

- By June 30: WWC Subcommittee prioritizes new BAS based on deficiencies identified.
Secure ability to apply for Trust Fund or other money for land acquisition.
- By December 31: Develop a strategy to demonstrate public need and public support for additional BAS
Subcommittee evaluates Waterways Commission funding legislation
Develop one boating access site

Objectives for 2003-2005

Develop one-two new BAS each year.

Goal 3: Create Harbor-of-Refuge

The Commission will complete the Cedar River project and seek an alternate design/site for a harbor of refuge at Cross Village. The Commission will also complete a needs study for harbors-of-refuge in Lake Superior.

In all efforts, the Commission will work with the Army Corps of

Engineers to identify navigational issues in site selection, and the Congressional delegation to seek federal funding to establish harbors.

Objectives or Steps to Reach the Goal:

Objectives in 2000

By December 31: Cedar River engineer selected

Objectives in 2001

By February 30: Appoint Search Committee to investigate alternative sites in Cross Village area.

By June 30: Cedar River preliminary design completed

By August 31: Cross Village Search Committee reports findings

By December 31: Begin doing community relations in appropriate community

Objectives in 2002

By June 30: Cedar River final design permits approved

By October 30 Cedar River construction starts
Select Operator for Cedar River

By December 31: Continue doing community relations in appropriate community

Objectives in 2003

By June 30: Prioritize Upgrade at Harbors in Lake Superior region based on Infrastructure Study

By December 31: Cedar River construction done

Objectives in 2004

By June 30: Cedar River operation begins
In Lake Superior region, select projects for funding

Objectives in 2004

By June 30: Begin design of funded projects in Lake Superior region

Goal 4: Strengthen Internal Structure and Efficiency

Part A: The Commission will utilize “Standing Committees” to better manage the boater’s needs in the State of Michigan. They will include:

- Facilities
- Operation/Policy
- Boating Access
- Public/Governmental Relations
- Finance

Part B: The Standing Committees will work to bring outside

- Constituency groups into the public process of the Commission.
- Part C: The Commission will direct staff to utilize the Bureau's Field Structure to assist in statewide compliance of regulations, project agreements, and policies pertaining to all Waterways Commission sponsored facilities.

Objectives or Steps to Reach the Goal:

Objectives in 2001

By June 30:

Part A - Committees

- Appointments to all 5 standing committees will be made, which
- would include 2 commissioners and one staff person. (each year
- committees are re-appointed at the February meeting, with the chair
- appointing commissioners and chief appointing staff.)
- Each standing committee will identify the scope of their responsibilities.
- Committees will meet twice and have made two reports at Commission meetings
- Chair and chief will determine standing committee issue assignments.

Part B - Constituencies

Identify constituency groups for outreach

Identify best process to integrate key constituency groups into communication with the Commission

Report findings and process to the commission.

Part C - Statewide Compliance

Identify which locations require special attention

By December 31:

Part A - Committees

Will have met 3 times and reported to the commission 3 times

Part B - Constituencies

Continue identifying key constituency groups as issues warrant

Part C - Statewide Compliance

Collate packages for program coordinator to assist them in carrying out compliance review, etc.

Objectives in 2002

By June 30:

Part C - Statewide Compliance

Send information to field staff to begin implementation

By December 31: **Part A - Committees & Part B - Constituencies**
Repeat the cycle outlined in 2001

Part C - Statewide Compliance
Complete statewide information distribution and begin implementation process.

Objectives in 2003

By June 30: **Part C - Statewide Compliance**
Statewide implementation of regulatory reviews

By December 31: **Part A - Committees & Part B - Constituencies**
Repeat the cycle outlined in 2001

Objectives in 2004

By December 31: **Part A - Committees & Part B - Constituencies**
Repeat the cycle outlined in 2001

Part C - Statewide Compliance
Ongoing statewide implementation of regulatory reviews

Objectives in 2005

By December 31: **Part A - Committees & Part B - Constituencies**
Repeat the cycle outlined in 2001

Part C - Statewide Compliance
Ongoing statewide implementation of regulatory reviews